

**Current Status of the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended)      An apparatus for controlling a microscope stage assembly comprising:

an upper stage; a slide mount; a rod; and, a releasable attachment means, wherein said releasable attachment means is arranged to directly attach said rod to said slide mount, said upper stage supports said slide mount, said upper stage is arranged to move in a first direction in response to a translational movement of said rod in said first direction, and said slide mount is arranged to move in a second direction, orthogonal to said first direction, in response to a translational movement of said rod in said second direction.

3. (previously presented)      The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a substantially hollow, circular tube with releasable attachment means.

4. (previously presented)      The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said releasable attachment means is selected from a group consisting of a screws, rivets, magnets, adhesive, hook-and-eyes, and springed detents.

5. (previously presented)      The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a distal portion, an intermediate portion and a proximal portion.

6. (previously presented)      The apparatus recited in Claim 5, wherein said proximal portion is attached to said slide mount, said intermediate portion connects said distal and said proximal portion, and said distal portion is disposed in space substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said stage assembly.

7. (previously presented)      The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod further comprises a gripping means operatively arranged to be detachably secured to said rod.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 further comprising:  
a joystick, wherein said releasable attachment means is arranged to attach said joystick to said slide mount.
9. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.
10. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a plurality of protuberances disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.
11. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a one-piece, pre-formed substantially solid rod with a releasable attachment means.
12. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 6, wherein said distal portion comprises a substantially solid, circular pole with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.
13. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 6, wherein said distal portion comprises a substantially solid, circular pole which tapers at the end.
14. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 7, wherein said gripping means comprises a substantially hollow tube with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.
15. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 5, further comprising a gripping means, wherein said gripping means comprises a substantially square, rotatable plate operatively arranged to be detachably secured to said distal portion of said rod.

16. (currently amended) A microscope stage movement means comprising:  
an upper stage;  
a slide mount;  
at least one substantially linear, rounded shaft with an attachment end and a gripping end;  
and,

a releasable attachment means, wherein said releasable attachment means is arranged to releasably attach said shaft to said slide mount, said upper stage supports said slide mount, said upper stage is arranged to move in a first direction in response to a translational movement of said shaft in said first direction, and said slide mount is arranged to move in a second direction, orthogonal to said first direction, in response to a translational movement of said shaft in said second direction.

17. (currently amended) An interchangeable microscope stage movement device for providing X and Y movement of a sample comprising:

an upper stage;  
a slide mount, wherein said upper stage supports said slide mount; and,  
a joystick detachably secured directly to said slide mount at more than one location of said slide mount.

18. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 further comprising:

a slide mount guide ~~fixedly~~ directly connected to said slide mount, where said releasable attachment means is arranged to directly attach said rod to said slide mount guide.